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8 May 1964

Congressman Leslie C. Arends
Office of the Minority Whip
4815 Dexter Street
Washington, D. C.

Dear Congressman Arends,

Many thanks for taking the trouble to reply to my letter concerning your speech about the CIA.

By now, although the book, *THE BAY OF PIGS*, is technically not released until May 18, the press has taken up the subject with considerable fervor. For your information I enclose a copy of a review to appear in the "Saturday Review" of May 17. It reflects the reactions which have already appeared in the Scripps-Howard and Hearst papers and also of the Washington Star, Washington Post, New York Herald Tribune, and many others we have seen in advance. The New York Times, we hear, is to give it a front page review in its Sunday, May 17, Book Review. Both major wire services are doing similar stories. I hope you have had time to read at least the parts of the book pertinent to the CIA debate.

As to your points concerning the existing congressional committees cognizant of the CIA, I cite the evidence in the book--and now accepted by the responsible press--as indicating that more is needed than an occasional briefing and review before a scattering of committees who meet infrequently and which have shown a marked fear of classified information. An organization capable of and willing to send the United States to

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war without consultation with its President or its Congress (with whatever good intentions and no matter that the CIA chiefs in Washington may not have known about what was going on in Guatemala) must be supervised by the representatives of the people. More briefing is patently insufficient.

As for the CIA's silence upon being shown proofs of the book well in advance it is difficult to accept their "no comment" position as being simply a standard procedure concerning anything published about them. The book had not then been published and was not going to be for many months. It was shown them with the full intention of correction any errors they might point out and printing their rebuttals if they seemed valid. In other words, the CIA had an opportunity to prevent the publication of this evidence, if it should prove not valid. It refused to take the opportunity. One wonders why.

Sincerely,

**Eric F. Swenson
Vice President &
Executive Editor**

EPS:shg